

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 520 - HB 766

April 6, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL AS AMENDED (004457): Requires the Department of Transportation (TDOT) to promulgate rules to establish standardized lengths of time a traffic-control signal must display the yellow or "Caution" signal light, when following the green or "Go" signal light. Requires such lengths of time be standardized by speed limit. Further requires that the rules establish at all intersections a one-second delay between the exposure of a red or "Stop" signal light and the display of a green "Go" signal light for another traffic signal located in the same intersection.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL AS AMENDED:

Other Fiscal Impact – This legislation may result in a loss in highway funding from the Federal Highway Administration due to failure to comply with relevant federal laws and regulations. The exact amount of any possible decrease in such funding cannot be determined at this time.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- If the federal Secretary of Transportation determines that a state has violated or failed to comply with the Federal laws or the regulations, the Secretary may withhold payment of federal funds on account of such project, withhold approval of further projects in the state, and take such other action that he deems appropriate under the circumstances, until compliance or remedial action has been accomplished to the satisfaction of the secretary.
- Based on information provided by the TDOT, this legislation could violate provisions of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices by only using speed as the sole criteria for the timing of yellow lights.
- Based on information provided by the Federal Highway Administration, the possibility of a decrease in funding was confirmed and a possibility of an increase in tort liability claims was also noted.
- The TDOT is expected to receive approximately \$1,284,549,000 in FY23-24 and \$1,310,235,000 in FY24-25 in highway funding.
- The exact amount of any possible decrease in funding is indeterminable at this time.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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